

REMARKS

The Applicants hereby add new claims 56-72 to clarify certain features of the claimed subject matter. These new claims do not add any new matter and are believed to be in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependencies on allowable independent claims, and also by virtue of additional unique features recited in each respective claim. In the Advisory Action mailed on July 10, 2006, the Examiner repeatedly referenced a metal catalyst film of Xu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,973,444). For example, the Examiner stated:

Xu teaches a metal catalyst film, which is considered to be a ‘platform’ because it is raised off the substrate, it will facilitate nanotube growth, it will raise the level of nanorods closer to the gate opening.

Advisory Action mailed on July 10, 2006, page 2. The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s interpretation of the metal catalysis film. Specifically, the Applicants submit that the metal catalyst film of the Xu reference does not raise the nanotubes. Instead, with reference to FIGS. 4A-4D, the Xu reference discloses:

During heating, the metal catalyst on top of the gate metal dissolves into the gate metal and does not readily catalyze the formation of carbon fibers on the gate metal.

Xu, col. 16, lines 8-11 (emphasis added). Furthermore, with reference to FIGS. 3A-3D, the Xu reference discloses:

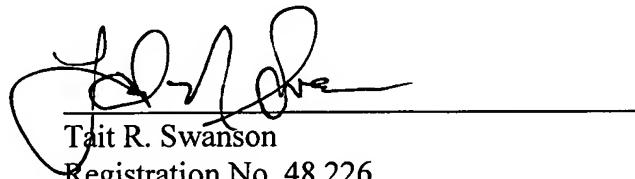
If the catalyst film is very thin it should break apart into particles upon heating and the fibers will grow directly onto the substrate surface.

Xu, col. 15, lines 56-58 (emphasis added). For at least these reasons, among others including those set forth in the previous response, the Applicants stress that the Xu reference, taken alone or in combination with the other references, cannot support a *prima facie* case of obviousness of the present claims.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims should be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve any other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: September 8, 2006

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